

## Science Collaborative CIU Meeting #4

September 21<sup>st</sup> 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

### Present

City of Homer: Bryan Hawkins (Harbormaster), Jim Hornaday (Mayor, KBRR Community Council)  
DNR: Rick Thompson (Regional Land Manager)  
KBRR Community Council: Bob Hartley, Michael Opheim (Seldovia Village Tribe),  
KBRR Staff: Steve Baird, Angie Doroff, Megan Murphy, Terry Thompson, Catie Bursch  
NOAA: Kris Holderied (Kasitsna Bay Lab Manager),  
UAF: Jeff Freymeuller  
UNH: Kenny Daher (TIDES graduate student intern)

### Absent

City of Homer: Walt Wrede (Manager), Rick Abboud (Planner)  
KP Borough: Susan Wilcox (Chief of Staff)

### AGENDA & NOTES

1. Intros
2. Review of June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting notes
3. Project Updates
4. Core Intended User Highlight: Rick Thompson with Dept of Natural Resources
5. Follow-up discussion
6. Add'l comments/questions/feedback from the group and input for December meeting.

Project Updates: *see ppt slides for additional information & images*

#### **Jeff Freymeuller**

- GPS measurements taken at chugachik bay, kasitsna bay lab
- 9 benchmarks taken within kbay
- 3 of which are the permanent sites (mcneil canyon school, peterson bay, homer water treatment)
- mean uplift rate for preexisting sites is close to 0.4 inch/year (10mm/yr)
- all sites are pretty similar in this array
- data from 2 non-bedrock sites show seasonal (freeze/thaw) sinusoidal changes
- GPS possibly threatened by 'lightsquared' technology

#### **Steve Baird**

- setting up vertically-stable benchmarks
- sadie cove benchmark was 130 ft deep (35 rods)!
- 5 new benchmarks set up this summer across the bay (3 of them in rock)
- goal is to have 4 benchmarks in all 4 marshes (beluga slough, Fox River Flats, Sadie Cove, and China Poot- now have 280 permanent veg plots in 4 marshes)
- each marsh also has 12 soil temp loggers and 2 water level loggers

#### **Angie**

- provided a context and reasons for including biological monitoring in this project
  - (Freshwater influence on surface circulation patterns, plankton and larval transport systems, and understanding glacial inputs to salt marshes)
  - Community monitoring data will be used to refine vegetation maps and help document biological diversity in 4 KBay salt marshes.
- this year trained 18 comm. monitors for beluga slough & china poot field outings. Data collected by this effort: 144 additional vegetation plots, 12 Insect Fallout Traps, 12 Insect Sweeps, 12 Samples for Infaunal Invertebrates, Fish Sampling (tidal & fresh water), Bird and Mammal Species Lists for each site.

#### **Kenny**

- review of community monitor role: engage Homer community members, compile richer biological data, provide validity to usefulness of the gained knowledge

- review of community monitoring training sessions
- provided highlights from the community monitoring field outings
- showed 4 min. video compilation of community monitoring interviews and fieldwork

**Core Intended User Highlight: Rick Thompson** *see ppt slides for more detail*

- DNR Management Overview: "Develop, Conserve, and Maximize the use of Alaska's Natural Resources consistent with the public interest"
  - DNR is an umbrella agency with multiple core divisions within, some of which have very different missions - can be confusing because we like to know who is responsible
  - job is to maximize and to facilitate the use of state lands
  - **underlining all of the decisions is the science that exists or doesn't exist**
  - public interest is an organic term so is changing over time - generally DNR is behind the power curve on the public interest
  - DNR Parks & Outdoor Rec, Geological & Geophysical Surveys, Mental Health Land Trust Office (manage mental health interests, not public interest-based decisions), Project Management & permitting, mining land & water, Forestry, Agriculture, Joint Pipeline Office, and Oil & Gas Divisions (Oil and Gas division gets most attention)
  - Rick is within Mining, Land & Water Management
  - DNR is the state surveyor and provide realty services
  - manage the surface water, DEC manages the water quality
  - land disposal: subdivisions & ? (offer state land for private ownership)
  - state has received 8-10 million acres from the federal govt (thru BLM in the last 5 years)
  - resource allocation management: assessing how DNR could do a better job (commissioner asking public opinion thru listening mtgs)
  - manage 60 million acres (in south-central region) - likely more due to tidal areas and lands under rivers, lakes
  - Rick makes decisions on leases, land-use permits – examples include upland, comm/resident leasing, set-net fishing leases, aquatic farm leases
  - state owns the Alyeska mountain, lease it to ski resort - condition that state facilitates the 'weaponry' for management - avalanche control. lease set up to house, transport, use military weaponry
  - inter-agency land management assignment
  - rights of way: blm corridors through driveways, trails management
  - helping to determine when damage occurs to trails. what is the definition of 'damage'?
  - shipwrecks on rocks/lands are DNR purview
  - management agreements with other agencies help determine shared goals
  - 906k process, ANILCA, state needs to be notified and agree
  - easement vacations (want to get out of easement) - try to reroute public access easements
  - special use areas: never had enough people to manage the large area - long list of things one can do without a permit (example of establishing hatcher pass ski area)
  - public use areas:
  - not paid for the stewardship component (paid to produce easements, leases, etc)
  - have regulation but do not have general citation enforcement
  - access to public lands & waters is a big issue: is there damage? will it occur?
  - **just because you have the good, reliable scientific data doesn't mean the conversation stops there**
- Science Needs Slide:
- emerging islands? ownership changes post 1964
  - **need to know the habitat values to better maximize the facilitated use**

Q: 3 mile line around state/federal lands - KBay is state-regulated lands?

We ran out of time for a discussion after Rick's presentation – more discussion time needed at the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting!

**Keypad Polling Results:** 36% of respondents have been in their line of work for 'too many years to count', 82% 'strongly agreed' and 18% 'agreed' that participation in this CIU meeting was a good use of their time, and 82% agreed that they learned something they will apply in their work or future decisions – 18% responded as 'maybe'